



INSIGHTS

107th Congress

October 21, 2002

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INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of ***INSIGHTS*** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. ***INSIGHTS*** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

I. WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

Both the House and Senate are in “pro forma” session, which means that they could return at any time to vote on pending legislation. The House adjourned last week and the Senate is scheduled to be in session on Wednesday, October 23; it is unclear whether the Senate will remain in town for the rest of the week. The House and Senate are expected to resume work on pending FY 2003 appropriations and major authorization bills after the November 5 elections – on or about November 12.

FY 2003 APPROPRIATIONS

Continuing Resolution President Bush signed into law the sixth continuing resolution for FY 2003 appropriations on October 18. *P.L. 107-244 extends Federal funding to November 22* for 13 annual appropriations bills. To date, two bills have cleared Congress and are pending the President’s signature:

- *H.R. 5010/S. Rpt. 107-213 – Defense*
- *H.R. 5051/S. 2709 – Military Construction*

The President is expected to sign both bills.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES/VOTES

Comprehensive Energy Legislation While Congress is adjourned, Congressional staff will continue to meet in an effort to resolve differences on the most controversial issues holding up a comprehensive energy conference report. Electricity restructuring (including a renewable portfolio standard), ethanol, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and climate change provisions remain the most difficult issues for the conference committee. **Last week, one conferee, Senator John Breaux (D/LA) indicated that ANWR was not an option among Senate Democrats, but added that the committee has made progress on resolving differences on electricity restructuring and ethanol provisions.** Further action on the bill will become clearer after the election; if the Republican party achieves a majority in the Senate, the bill may be deferred until the 108th Congress.

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II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

No new information of interest to report.

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SENATE

No new information of interest to report.

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III. STATUS OF FY03 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

(In Billions)

HOUSE

SENATE

<i>Jurisdiction/ FY 2003 Budget Request</i>	<i>302(b) Allocation ns/ Approved Funding Level</i>	<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Full Cmte.</i>	<i>Floor</i>	<i>Conf.</i>	<i>302(b) Allocation s/Approved Funding Level</i>	<i>Bill No.</i>	<i>Full Cmte</i>	<i>Floor</i>	<i>Conf.</i>
Agriculture \$17.051	\$ 17.601	HR 5263	7/11	7/26		\$ 17.980	S 2801	7/25		
Commerce \$ 40.333	\$ 40.726	-	7/18			\$ 43.475	S 2778	7/18		
Defense \$356.598	\$354.7	HR 5010	6/24	6/27	10/10	\$ 355.1	S Rpt 107- 213	7/18	8/1	10/16
Energy and Water Development \$25.149	\$ 26.027	HR 5431	9/05			\$ 26.300	S 27844	7/24		
Interior \$18.953	\$ 19.8	HR 5093	7/9	7/17		\$ 19.35	S. 2708	6/27		
Labor / HHS \$129.902	\$129.902	HR 5320				\$133.988	S 2766	7/18		
Military Construction \$ 9.541	\$ 10.083	HR 5011	6/24	6/27	10/2	\$ 10.622	S 2709	6/27	7/18	10/11
Transportation \$ 19.851	\$ 19.411	-	10/1			\$ 21.1	S 2808	7/25		
Treasury \$ 17.960	\$ 18.501	HR 5120	7/9	7/24		\$ 18.501	S 2740	7/16		
VA/HUD \$ 92.518	\$ 90.9	-	10/9			\$ 91.434	S 2797	7/25		
Continuing Resolution H J Res 112 P.L. 107-244 (10/18/02)										

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IV. NEW LEGISLATION

(Note: Once a new bill is introduced, the Government Printing Office generally requires from several days to one week to make the bill available in print)

HOUSE

Number		Short title	Date	Sponsor	Status
H. R. 5610		Southern Nevada Veterans Medical Center Act of 2002	October 10	Shelley Berkley (D/NV)	Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
	Provisions of Interest:	Authorizes the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to construct a medical facility in southern Nevada to consist of a new medical center with a full-service patient care hospital, an outpatient clinic, and a comprehensive long-term care nursing home facility. The Secretary is encouraged to seek out partnerships with state and local government entities for the purpose of sharing the cost of planning, land acquisition, and construction, and the cost of maintaining the center.			
H. R. 5623		No Short Title	October 10	William Luther (D/MN)	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce
	Provisions of Interest:	Amends Section 180 of the <i>Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982</i> (42 U.S.C. 10175) to provide for prioritization of transportation of nuclear waste from utilities to a permanent repository on the basis of renewable energy use . The Secretary shall establish a priority listing among utilities; highest priority shall be assigned to utilities that derive the highest percentage of energy produced or sold from renewable energy resources .			
H.R. 5614		Energy Markets Fraud Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2002	October 10	John Dingell (D/MI)	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce
	Provisions of Interest:	Prohibits fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive acts in electric and natural gas markets, provides for audit trails and transparency in those markets, increases penalties for illegal acts under the <i>Federal Power Act</i> and <i>Natural Gas Act</i> , reexamines certain exemptions under the <i>Federal Power Act</i> and the <i>Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935</i> , expands the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to order refunds of unjust and discriminatory rates, and for other purposes.			

SENATE

No new bills of interest to report.

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V. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

No new activities or initiatives of interest to report.

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VI. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

No new hearings, mark ups, or votes of interest have been scheduled.

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

No new hearings, mark ups, or votes of interest have been scheduled.

SENATE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

No new hearings, mark ups, or votes of interest have been scheduled.

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

No new hearings, mark ups, or votes of interest have been scheduled.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS/FLOOR VOTES

No conference committee meetings or votes have been scheduled.

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